

T.R.A.A.
TOWING AND RECOVERY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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LEADS/REGS. DIV.

Charles Medalen
Office of Chief Counsel
Federal Highway Administration
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Mr. Medalen:

As Legislative Chairman for the National Towing and Recovery Association of America, (TRAA), I would like to give you our opinions and viewpoints on the legislation pending for entry level commercial motor vehicle drivers.

This legislation would have a drastic effect and impact on the tow truck driver and towing companies across the United States.

The Towing and Recovery Associations encourage and support good, quality, trained drivers and continued education especially as it applies to safety for them and the motoring public. We feel that in today's market the majority of the trucking companies large or small are having to comply with safety courses, training, and experienced drivers before putting someone in their vehicles. For trucking companies and towing companies to be insured or to prevent them from liability risk, the majority are looking to hire and employ experienced, qualified drivers.

The Voice of America's Tow Truck Industry

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At this time, we would not like to see the Federal Government become involved and mandate training for entry level CMV drivers. If the individual can pass the CDL test, which requires a written and behind the wheel road test, we feel that is all the Federal Government should require and/or mandate. Private industry will and should require on their own that entry level CDL license holders have some training courses before hiring or putting these individuals behind the wheel. In the long run, and near future, this problem should resolve itself without Federal Legislation. The burden of liability risk, becoming insurable, and cost of equipment becomes increasingly higher and difficult to deal with, which already necessitates trained drivers. For training purposes, the industry already has avenues in which they can utilize. There are several good schools already in existence that the trucking industry can and do take advantage of.

At this time, I would like to thank you for your time and hope you will consider our thoughts and concerns over this legislation. TRAA will be working and monitoring this issue along with the American Truck Association, (ATA), as TRAA is one of ATA's conference members. If you have any questions or we can be of some assistance to your committee or group please do not hesitate to contact myself or the office of TRAA. The Towing and Recovery Association looks forward to working with you on matters that involve the trucking and towing industry, should the opportunity arise.

Yours truly,



John Glass,
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